Anomalous Phenomena of the Interregnum

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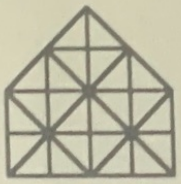

from the library of
LEO F. SOLT
1921-1994

Dean of the Graduate School
Indiana University

PREFACE

The pamphlets reproduced in this volume are taken from the collection of seventeenth-century publications in the British Library formed by George Thomason. Thomason (1602?-1666) was a London bookseller, trading at the sign of the Rose and Crown in St. Paul's Church Yard. He was a known friend of both John Milton and William Prynne. Thomason began his collection on the third of November 1640, the day on which the 'Long Parliament' (which was to sit until 1653) opened. With remarkable foresight he set out to obtain a copy of every book, pamphlet and newspaper issued in London from this date until the coronation of Charles II on the twenty-third of April 1661. How successful Thomason was in his undertaking is demonstrated by the fact that the surviving collection amounts to more than twenty-two thousand items, comprising publications from not only London but also the provinces and abroad.

The collection spans one of the most important periods of English history, providing historians with valuable source material for study of the period leading up to the civil war, the civil war itself, the Commonwealth and finally the Restoration. It is not only political events that are the subject of the publications in the collection. Many of the items are concerned with religious matters. There also herbals, cookbooks, poetry publications and works on a variety of other subjects. Among these are a number of pamphlets which treat of 'Fortean' subject matter. These total about forty in all, of which five are reproduced in this publication. A list of related titles in the collection is provided in an appendix and is hoped to produce a further selection at a future date.

The pamphlets included in this selection were chosen on the grounds of readability and so as to provide as wide a selection of subject matter as possible within the constraints of the present publication. (Of the forty or so 'Fortean' pamphlets in the Thomason collection a large proportion are concerned with either apparitions or monstrous births). The works reproduced in this edition follow as faithfully as possible the original publications. A few alterations have been made in the case of obvious typographical errors, otherwise the original spelling and punctuation have been preserved throughout. The layout of the original pamphlets has also been followed, though this has been rationalised to fit the format of the present edition.

The British Library catalogue references and Thomason's date of acquisition of these texts are as follows: *Newes From New-England*, E144.(22.), April 1642; *Horrid and Strange News from Ireland*, E78.(1.), December 7 1644; *The Most Strange Apperation of Blood*, E303.(22.), September 30 1645; *Strange and True Newes From Glocester*, E1035.(12.), August 2 1660; *A Strange and True Relation of Several Wonderful and Miraculous Sights*, E1084.(4.), March 5 1661.

NEWES

FROM NEW-ENGLAND:

OF

A most strange and prodigious Birth, brought to *Boston* in *New-England*, October the 17. being a true and exact Relation, brought over April 19. 1642. by a Gentleman of good worth, now resident in *London*. Also other Relations of six strange and prodigious Births in these Countries following.

The 1. from *New-England*. The 2. from *Quieres*. The 3d. in *Ravena*. The 4. in *Paris*. The 5. in St. *Andwes* Church in *Paris*. The 6. in the Forrest Biera.

A Monstrous Birth brought to *Boston* in *New-England*, *October the* 17. 1637.

ONe *Mary* wife of *William Dier*, somtimes a Citisen and Milliner in the *New-Exchange*, neer the city of *London*, and being both yong, very comely and proper born, was delivered of a woman child still-born having life a few hours before, two months before the due time, yet as large as ordinary children are; the face of it stood so far into the breast, as the ears which were like an Apes ears, grew upon the shoulders; the eyes and mouth stood more out than other childrens; the nose grew hooking upwards, the face had no part of the head behind, but a hollow place, yet whole, it had no forehead, but in the place thereof four perfect horns; whereof two were above an inch long, hard and pointed, the other two were short, the breast and shoulders were full of scales, sharp and pricking, like your Thornback, the navell and the belly with a distinction of all the Sex, were behind and the hips were before where the face stood, the arms and legs were as other children but instead of toes, it had on each foot claws with sharp Talents like a fowl, in the upper part of the back, it had two great mouths, and in each a piece of red flesh, sticking in it.

The second.

AT *Quiers* a small Village some 10. miles from *Turine* in *Savoy*, in the year 1578. upon the 17. day of *Ian.* about 8. a clock at night, an honest Matron brought forth a child, having 5. horns, like to Rams horns, set opposite to one another upon his head; he had also a long piece of flesh like in some sort to a French hood, which women used to wear, hanging down from his Fore-head by the Nap of his neck, almost the length of his back; two other Pieces of flesh like the collar of a shirt, were wrapped about his neck: the fingers ends of both his hands somewhat resembled a Hawks Talons, and his knees seemed to be in his hammes: the right Leg and the right Foot were of a very red colour, the rest of his body was of a tawny colour: It is said, he gave such a terrible scritch when he was brought forth, that the Midwives, and the rest of the women that were at her Labour, were so frighted; that they presently left the House, and ran away: when the Duke of *Savoy* heard of this Monster, he commanded it should be brought to him, which performed, one would hardly think what various censures the Courtiers gave of it.

The third.

ABout the time that *Pope Iulius* the 2. raised up all *Italy*, and the greatest part of *Christendome*, against *Lewis* the Twelfth, King of *France*, in the year of our Lord, 1512. In which year upon *Easter day* neer *Ravena*, was

fought that mortall Battell; in which the Popes were overthrown; a Monster was born in *Ravena*, having a horn upon the crown of his head: besides two wings, one Foot alone, most like to the Feet of Birds of prey, and on the knee thereof an eye, the Privities of Male and Female, the rest of the body like a man.

The Fourth.

IN the year 1546. a woman in *Paris*, in her sixth Month of her account, brought forth a child, having two heads, two arms, and four legs and dissecting the body of it, found but one heart: by which, one may know it was but one Infant. For you may know this from *Aristotle*, whether the monstrous Birth be one, or more joyned together, by the principall part. For if that body hath but one heart, it is but one: if two, it is double by joyning together in the conception.

The Fifth.

IN *Anno* 1573. there was seen in St. *Andrewes* church in *Paris*, a Boy 9. years old, born in the Village *Parpavilla*, six miles from *Guise*, his Fathers name was *Peter Renard*, and his Mother *Marquote*: he had but two fingers on his right hand, his Arm was well proportioned from the top of his shoulder, almost to his wrist; but from thence to his two fingers ends: it was very deformed, he wanted his legs and thighes; although from the right buttock a certain unperfect figure, having only four toes, seemed to put itself forth: from the midst of the left buttock, two toes sprung out, the one of which was not much unlike a mans yard.

The Sixth.

In *Anno*. 1517. in the parish of *Kingswood* in the Forrest *Biera* in the way of *Fountain-Bleau* there was a monster borne with the face of a frogg, being seene by *Iohn Bellinger*, Chirurgion to the Kings Engineers, before the Iustices of the Towne of *Harmoy*, principally *Iohn Bribon* the Kings Procurator in that place. The fathers name was *Amadeus* the little, his mothers, *Magdalina Sarbucata* who troubled with a feaver, by a womans perswasion, held a quick frogg in her hand till it died, she came thus to bed with her husband and conceived. *Bellanger* a man of acute wit, thought this was the cause of the monstrous deformity of the Child.

Woman, is a creature bringing usually but one at a birth, but there have beene some who have brought forth two, some three, some four, some five, some six, or more at one birth. *Empedocles* thought that the abundance of seed was the cause of such numerous birthes: the *Stoiks* affirme the divers cells or partitions to be the cause: for the seed being variously parted into these partitions, and the conception divided, there are more children brought no otherwise then in rivers, the water beating against divers rocks, is turned into divers circles or rounds. But *Aristotle* saith there is no reason

to thinke so, for in women that parting of the wombe into cells, as in doggs and sowes taketh no place:

For womens Wombs have but one cavity, parted into two recesses, the right and left, nothing comming between; except by chance distinguished by a certain line, for often Twins lye in the same side of the Womb.

Aristotles opinion is , that a woman cannot bring forth more than five children at one birth.

The Maid of *Augustus Cæsar* brought forth nine at a Birth, she and her children dyed.

In the year 1554 at *Bearn* in *Switzerland*, the Wife of Doctor *Iohn Gelinger*, brought forth five children at one Birth, three Boyes and two Girls.

Albuccasis affirms a Woman to have bin the Mother of seven children at one Birth; and another, who by some externall injury did abort, brought forth five perfectly, shaped in all their parts.

Pliny reports, that it was extant in the Writings of Physitians, that 12. children were born at one birth, and that there was another in *Peloponesus*, which 4. severall times was delivered of five children at one birth; and that the greater part of those children lived.

It is reported by *Dalechampius* that *Bonaventura* the slave of one *Savill*, a Gentleman of *Sena*, at one time brought forth 7. children: of which 4. were baptized in our time, between *Sarte* and *Main* in the Parish of *Seaux*, not far from *Chambella*: there is a Family and noble house called *Maldemeure*, the wife of the Lord *Maldemeure*: the first year she was marryed, brought forth twins: the second year she had three children: the third year 4. the fourth year five: the fifth year six, and of that Birth she dyed.

Of these six one is yet alive, and is Lord of Maldemeur. In the valley of *Beaufors*, in the Country of *Aniou*: a young woman the daughter of *Mace Channier*, when at one perfect birth she had brought forth one child, the tenth day following she fell in labour of another, but could not be delivered untill it was plucked from her by force, and was the death of the mother. *Martin Cromerus* that authour of the *Polish history*, writeth that one *Margaret* a woman sprung from a noble and ancient family near *Cracovia* and wife to *Count Virboslaus*, brought forth at one Birth 35 living children upon the 20th. day of *Ianuary*. In the yeare. 1296, *Fransiscus Picus Mirandula* writeth, that one *Dorothy* an *Italian* had twenty children at two births, at the first 9 at the secony 11, and that she was so big that she was forced to bear up her belly which lay upon her knees, with a broad and large scarfe tyed about her necke, as you may see by divers authours.

FINIS.

LONDON:
Printed for JOHN G. SMITH,
1642.

Horrid and Strange News from IRELAND:

Being a True RELATION

Of what happened in the Province of *Munster*, at a Castle of one of the *Fitz Garrets*, called Ballimarter, wherein there were very strange Apparitions, the like never before heard of, to the amazement of all the Beholders.

Written by *Henry Lovel* Gent. being an Eye-witnesse and a fellow-feeler thereof, now in *London* ready to averre the same for truth.

This is Licenced and Entered according to Order.

LONDON, Printed by *Tho. Harper*. 1643.

Horrid and strange News from Ireland.

I Being in *Ireland*, and travelling into *Munster*, with Sir *Donough Mac Carty*, now Lord of *Musquerie*, wee came to a Castle of one of the *Fitz Garrets* called *Ballimarter*, where our lodging was in a low chamber at the upper end of the Hall, the chamber had two windowes, a long table, two formes, two beds; my friend and his cousen, one of the sons of the Gentleman of the Castle lay together, and I lay against the door: as we came into the chamber a hound of the house going in before me, I saw the Dog shew great feare as he went under the bed, but I thought nothing of it: one of the servants set down a candle upon the ground by me, and there came a blast of winde from the doore, and blue out the candle, no body here, said my friend, then no body did it said I, and then, and not before, did I remember what my friend said to me upon the way, that the house was haunted with Spirits; presently something made such a noise upon the top of the tester like the noise of squibs; how now said I are you there already? the thing made the like noise againe, I stept up at the beds feet, and there was a handsome beast like a Cat, and it turned the head and looked upon me, it was grisled about the nose, and away it scudled to the upper end of the bed, and sunke downe. I told the company that I had seen the finest beast that ever I saw in my life, after wee were in bed there were lights upon the wall that went round about the chamber, but something had got my friend by the leg, and he cried out mainly, and I did not finde that his bed-fellow gave him any helpe at all, which made me think he cried to make me afraid, but he being almost pulled out by the heels the Spirit let goe his leg, and his bed-fellow began to roare out amaine, and I began to startle: whats the matter with you there said I: there is one, saies he, lies upon me & is ready to kill me: thought I with my selfe, if the heire of the house be thus dealt withall, I shall bee paid by and by: with that I felt something creeping upon the bed, but it was nothing but the Hound that came for succour; then the boots began for to flye at their heads, the table went one way, the formes were drawn another way, such a damnable noise in the Hall as if twenty had been together by the ears: I thought that all the Divels in Hell were gotten together, but I could see nothing, and that was throwne was at their heads, this continued three houres together; and then began the stir over head among the servants, all the bed cloathes pulled off them, beaten with their bootes, and never gave them over untill it was almost day.

The next day being Friday my friend went into the Country about some businesse, but that night I heard nothing stir in the chamber, but in the Hall, and among the servants above they were soundly beaten. Upon Saturday at night my friend came home, and I comming from the boord in the Hall, there stood a candle upon the table, and one of the servants taking the candlesticke in his hand, there came a breath or blast of winde of the colour of a Rain-bow as big as my arm, as if it had come out of a squirt, with that force that if it had been a torch it would have been blowne out, said I, we are like to have a prety night of this when as we cannot be

suffered to goe quietly out of the Hall; as soone as we were in bed, there was a Bell rung about the chamber, and such a crying of *O bone* all about the yard, that it was wonderfull to heare their audible voyces; immediately my rug was pulled from me, I complained to my friend for the losse of my cloaths, by my soule said he, we have lost rug, and sheet and all, let us rise together and get our cloaths, but he made me no answer. I heard something rattle upon the chest at my beds feet, doe you heare Sir, said I, do you mean I shall lye cold all night, presently I saw the rug come flying about the bed post griped at one corner, and so throwne upon me: I felt to see how it was laid, and I could not mend it. I tooke good hold of the rugge with both my hands, for I thought this kindnesse came not for nothing, presently something tooke hold of the cloaths a little below my knees, and pulled me up from the boulster: I pulled again, and down the Spirit fell upon me as it were with two fists, after which, he pulled me up from the boulster eight or ten times, thought I if he continue to pull thus divelishly, he will tyer me out quite, I must thinke of a remedy, I gave a strong pull with all my might, and withall I start up and caught at him with one of my hands so that I made him let goe, he strake me instantly with a boot over the knees, and laid on me as if I had done him a great deale of wrong. I start up and caught at the boot, but he shifted from one side to the other that I could never touch the boot; thought I, this is not the way, he strake upon one side, and I caught on the other side, & then I had gotten the boot by the top with both hands, and then did I see him, he was no bigger then an Ape, but we made such an noise with puffing and blowing that my friend thought they had been killing of me, and asked me how I did, said I, here is a rogue hath beaten me with a boot, and I have hold of it, and will teare it in peeces before he shall pull the boot from me, but at last I haled him so near me that I thought to catch him in mine armes, but he tumbled downe at the beds feet, and I was taken by the foot with a hand, I beat him off with the other foot, up comes a thing tumbling upon me, and sits upon my legs, I gave twenty plundges at him before I could kicke him off: my friend called to me to know how I did, said I, here is a rogue rides me, but he was no sooner downe but he was upon me againe, but I start up and strake at him, and then he tumbled off me, in the meane time my friend knocked for his men, but no helpe came, and then the Spirits made sundry noises in the chamber, but especially one of them, for he cryed *Weshaw, Weshaw, Weshaw*, hold said I a little, I perceive you understand all Languages, it may be that God will be so pleased that some way may be found for the quiet of this place, but they cryed out as they did: I commanded them in Gods name to depart the chamber, but they continued their outraging noise untill it pleased themselves; in comes a younger sonne of Mr. *Fitz Garrets* to know how we did, my friend having laine long without his cloaths, thought it a good time to get them, but as he stooped to take them up he had such a blow on the bum that made him leap above ground, and came running to my bed side but he was followed so close that they both beat in upon me; young *Fitz Garret* tumbled over to the wal, my friend got in by me, but

finding little rest there, he left me naked, and the cry began as it did before, *Weshaw, Weshaw*, and one lay snoring at my eare: sirra said I, you are broken winded, but the chamber being a little quiet, I looked towards the doore, and there I saw the shape of a man, and he pissed in my face, said I to my friend here is a rogue pisies, he would have said something to me but the Spirit pist in his mouth: by my soule, said he, the Spirit hath pissed in my mouth: you unmannerly Rascall said I, is this the entertainment you give to Gentlemen? this is the roguest trick that ever I did see; I was about to rise, and run upon him, but there appears one in a white shirt by the beds side, and he plaid with something under his shirt against his belly, that he made such a tunable noise that I could not but laugh at his roguery: how now sirra said I, are you good at that sport? here is a sweet crue of you, and with that I start up, and then away he went towards the doore; my friend being weary of his lodging got up, and ran where his bed cloaths lay, and got to his owne bed, after he was gone they flang all the boots and shooes that were in the chamber at mee: in the end there came a weighty thing upon me, what is that said the young man by me, nothing said I, but one of the long formes, and I pushed it downe at the beds feet, then they tumbled a joynt stoole upon the bed, and thus they did divers times; the roome being a little quiet the young man ran out of the chamber: said my friend to me, doe you see nothing at my window? there was the same shape in a white shirt that came to the bed side, and having opened the shutting of the window, he raised himselfe up to the height of the window, and grew big in the upper parts, and slender below, spreading his armes abroad naked up to the elbow, and sometimes he would sinke down to his former posture, and up again with a body like a Gyant: in the end I called him, white shirt said I, you have done very well, and then he shut up the window and was seen no more: my friend called to me againe, see you nothing at our window, I looked and saw two hands taboring upon the glasse: those hands have a face, said I, I will out and see, but I could see nothing but his armes, and his head bob up and downe, it was as light as day in the yard: then he tossed up a short mantle to the top of the window, and when it fell downe he tooke it in his armes, and up with it again, thus did he divers times: thought I he will doe something else besides playing with his mantle, I will stand to the casement, it may be he will open it, and then I shall see his posture, if not, I will upon the window. I had no sooner setled my self but the casement opened without any winde at all, and he looks in upon me, a young face, long, lean and hollow eyed: I thrust my hand at his throat, but he avoided most nimbly under my hand, and clapped himselfe flat to the wall, as flat as a cake, and turned up his face and looked at me. O you Rogue said I, I will see how you will bestow your selfe, but my fight was taken from him upon another that stood against the window in English apparrell, and he began to walke towards the Hall staires, so I shut the window and went to bed, but I was scarce laid downe when one of them strake me over the face with a leather belt and hurt my face: nay said I, take this and take all, and after him I went, and striking at him I hit my friends bed poste, and hurt

my fingers, then was I wilde, and ran after him about the table, and laid about me upon every side and seeing some shadowes before me, I spread my armes abroad, and ran them up against the wall at the doore but I thought they went out into the entry: I followed after, and locked up the doore, and as I was taking out the key, I told my friend that I had driven all the hel-hounds out of the chamber, but turning my head aside, there was one in white looking over my shoulder, & away goes he between the table and the wall, and I after him with the key in my hand, striving to take him upon the pate, but he kept his distance so before me, that I found that if I strake I should strike short, which made me fling the key at his backe, and the key went through him for he was but a shadow, and hee vanished away before me; the key sprang back under the tables end, and I could not finde it, and then I went and lay downe in my bed, and I saw a blacke head looking out from under my friends bed, and out he creeps in his former shape, goes to the tables end, stoops under and takes up the key, and goes into the entry, and unlocks the doore, and takes the latch in his other hand, and flings the doore wide open, and walkes along the entry into the Hall; a Harpe being in the window one begins to play an Irish tune, and plaid halfe a quarter of an houre, but so singularly well, that it was not possible for man to doe the like, and plaid an Irish dance, and before I was aware there was some seven or eight young men to looke upon, dancing in a ring, and one of them had a paire of tables in his hands, and all to ratled them up and downe, and when he left playing they were not to be seen: then he plaid againe, and they were in againe dancing as before, but as soone as he left playing they were vanished upon a sudden: well thought I, you shall serve me so no more, a mouse shall not come in at the doore but I will see it, the first thing I saw was a whip of lightning no bigger then a bow-string, and withall there was a limbe of the Divell kicked into the roome, and gave such a bounce that it drew my sight fully upon it, but before I could cast up my sight there was the shape of a body proportionable unto it, this shape was fifteen or sixteen foot of length, that his head touched the roofe of the chamber, and as he did walke forward he bounced and made such a noise that it was wonder to heare: I beheld him with a sorrowfull countenance, and I saw his knees above the boord, and I could not reach neare his waste, I having no acquaintance with him formerly, I thought it was an unequall match to graple with him, but I will see the going out, and after many turnes when he came to make himselfe even with the doore he vanished and became nothing, and presently the cry was above staires, the servants lay three in a bed, and among them was a Priest, the first that was laid hold of was the Priest, they had him by the legs, and he cried out dor helpe, and with much adoe, his fellowes kept him that he was not drawn quite out of the bed, but there he lay with feare and trembling all that night, and staid not in the morning to take leave: in the next bed lay a Harper, and he was pulled out of the bed by the stones with a whip-cord, and in the fall hurt his shoulder and was shrewdly beat about the chamber, before he could recover his bed, not one rag of cloaths left upon them, and were beaten with boots untill daylight.

Upon Sunday night I had a fire in my chamber, and a boy to maintaine the fire, and a staffe in my hand, purposing to be master of my lodging that night, I comming formost with my hat in my hand, the stones came flying in the window thick and threefold, but I shut the casement with my staffe and held downe the latch of the casement, and they pinched my finger in the ring of the casement, so that my naile was brused, but I would not let goe, my friend standing in the chamber doore desired me to stand off from the window, doubting that my braines would have been dashed out with the stones; they slang two stones through the next light which flew by my shoulder, brake foure panes of the glasse, and yet all the broken glasse flue backward into the yard, and the crosse lead was beaten outward into the yard, and yet the stones flue into the chamber: the company being gone, I went to locke the chamber doore, but I could not finde the staple, I called my friend, and bid him see if he could find the staple, I shot the locke into his hand and put the doore close to the poste, and yet no staple would be found, so we gave it over as pulled out of the post, and yet the staple was not taken out of the post: said I, it is no great matter for shutting of the doore, for if any of them come in I will make him an example for the rest of his fellows if I may see him, in the mean time I walked up and downe the chamber expecting no good: it was not long before I had a thumpe in the necke with a turfe thrown at me that it strake my cap on the one side, which I did not take very well, but it was not long but they hit me so againe, I laid about me with my staffe, but all in vaine, for I could see nothing; at last something came down the chimney ratling, which was nothing but an old scrubed broome, and then came downe such another, the basket hilt of a cudgell and stones they threw downe into the fire, then said I if you dare come no nearer I shall doe well enough this night, but they got a tricke at last that if I were at one end of the chamber, they would all to beat them that were in bed, but I came in to helpe them suddenly, in the end they desired me to sit by them upon the bed, and full many a thumpe on the backe I had, but I would not be driven from them, then they were so mad they threw the fire about the chamber: said I, I think these hel-hounds will burn the house, and as I sat upon the bed they clapt the hilt of the cudgell upon my cap, doe you see what a coxcombe they have put upon my head, I gave it to the boy and made him burne it, then they tooke my Rapier off the bed and threw it against the ground, and when I tooke it up they threw a Pistoll after me and hit me on the leg: the night being well spent, and the fire almost wasted, the boy unseene by me was gone out of the chamber to get up staires to his bed, but before he could get up they pulled him downe by the heels and beat him, so that he cried for help amaine. I not thinking of the boy ran to helpe, meaning to lay indifferently amongst them never remembring the boy, but as soone as I came among them they let the boy goe, and he ran into my armes, and I led him into the chamber, but they had handled him so ruffly, that I could not quiet him in a good while, and he told me that if I had not come and rescued him they had killed him, then I went and sat by my friend, and set my candle upon the forme before

me and they threw three times at it from the bed but did not put it out, then I tooke the candle in my hand and went and sat upon my own bed, and set the candle by me, and I heard something at the doore; I ran and pulled open the doore, and there were some eight in the shapes of men, and the hindmost was in English habit, and they crowded one upon another making haste to be gone, so that the former was ready to turne into the Hall; when I had the first sight of this hopefull crue, and they were so far gone from me that I could not give a blow upon them, so I set my backe against the doore, and bid one of them if hee durst come and drive me into the chamber; but they did not shew themselves nor make any noise: well said I, rather then want sport come all the whole crue of you and let us have one rough bout before I go to rest: then they shewed the light of a candle through the chinkes of the staires; said I, now I perceive your meaning, you intend to goe and visit your friends above staires, and I will goe and take my rest, and as soon as I had shut my door, I might heare them at it above head: the men cried, the dogs cried, for they were throwne from one end of the roome to the other, and thus this last night was ended, and I was glad I had no more hurt among them.

Your loving Friend

Henry Lovel.

AFter my comming to Dublin a friend of mine told me that he came from this Castle, and that Mr. *Fitz Garret* and he playing at Tables late, sent the Butler into the Seller for Beere, but the Butler came running up again, and told his Master that *Gibbaloney*, the great Divell was sitting at the barrells head with a candle in his hand taking Tobacco, and another came running out of his chamber in his shirt, and said that *Gibbaloney* the great Divell had pulled him out of his bed, and tossed him up that he hit the seeling of the chamber, and as he fell downe he caught him in his armes amd threw him into bed again.

FINIS.

The most

STRANGE AND WOVNDERFVELL

apperation of blood in a poole at

GARRATON

In Leicester-shire, which continued

for the space of foure dayes, the rednese of the colour for the space of those foure dayes every day increasing higher and higher, to the infinet amazement of many hundreds of beholders of all degrees and conditions, who have dipped their handketchers in this bloody poole, the scarlet complection of the linnen will be a testimoniall of this wonderfull truth to many succeding generations.

AS ALSO

The true relation of a miraculous and prodigious birth in *Shoo-lane*, where one Mistris *Browne* a Cuttlers wife was delivered of a monster without a head or feet, and instead of a head had a hollow out of which a child did proceed, which was little but lovely, perfect in all but very spare and leane.

AS ALSO

The KINGS sending to his Parliament for hostage for the security of his person to come unto London and to sit with his parliament for the composing the differences in the Kingdome.

Printed at *London* by *I.H.*

The most strange and wonderfull apperition of blood, in a Poole at *Garraton* in *Leicester-shire*, which continued for the space of *foure dayes the rednesse of the colour for the space of those foure dayes every day increasing higher and higher, to the infinet amazement of many hundred beholders of all degrees.*

WHosoever shall consider these sad times, wherin not onely the sonne riseth against the father the brother against the brother, and the spirit of dissention and warre is spread over the whole face of the earth but such prodigious and wonderfull things have apheared as no age before have ever seene or heard of he must confesse that he liveth now in the evening of time, and in the last age of the world, wherein all things do begin to suffer a change:

I will not trouble you with any thing which in this nature hath heretofore beene delivered to you: The Sword at *Plaisto* flourishing without hands, and the great Stone clambring up the staires and whatsoever there is strange or wonderfull are but sluggish miaclous compared to this, which doth the raither prefer it self to your observation because in the buisnesse of Plaisto there are as to be seene for the most part but some knavish lights and as it were the *Hocus Pocus* of a spirit but in this which now shall be represented unto you the immediate anger of God in great Charactes of blood is most appearently to be read.

At *Garraton* a Towne in *Leicester*-shire, not far from *Loughborough* is a great pond of water, which for many generations hath beene knowne to be there time out of mind, it is above an Acre on the length, and about an Acre in the bredth. It was made at first to satisfie the thirst of the Cattle, which from the commons and pastures there abouts did daily resort unto it and sometimes it allayed the drought of the poore and thirsty travailer, but now (as if it were another element,) it altread both its nature and complexion, for the beasts did refuse to drinke thereof and some few days afterwards being passed they would not come neere the water, which the Countrymen and Inhabitants who were owners of the Cattle thereabouts perceiving they repayred to the pond to see what the reason of this strange thing should be.

Being come unto the pond they found the colour of the water changed, for it began to looke red, and the substance thereof, was thicker then before, amazed at the nouelty of this sight they departed from the place, they make a relation of it to their friends and one neighbour brings in another to behold this wonderful chance.

The noyse is spread over all the Country, and in thronging numbers they make haste to see it. The water which at the first began to looke but

reddish, doth now looke higher and higher, and as the people came in it did increase in colour. This continued for the space of foure dayes, the Country farre and neere (who had notice of it) comming in to be spectators of it. It waxed more red the second day then it seemed at the first, and farre more red the third day then it did of the second, and on the fourth day it grew a perfect sanguine.

There is no wonder in this nature but carrieth some divotion in it, the people stand round about the bankes of the pond, and from looking on the water they look up to heaven from whence they believe that the wonder came; with reverence they discover this miracle of the water turned into wine, but of the water turned into blood they never heard of that wonder before. Some of them more hardy then the rest would undertake to taste of it, to understand if it were already as much in taste as in complection, but they were severely charged by those that did stand by them, and were told that they might follow the more wise example of the beasts for since the Cattle refused to drink of the water by so doing they would now shew themselves more brutish then the Beasts.

The water still continueth in its bloody colour and had all one standing face of blood, and with all it seemed so thick that if a high wind had blown it is believed that it would very hardly at all, or else very gently have moved. Every day brought in new observers to behold this admirable poole, and who had but seene it the day before could not be content with one dayes wonder, but must come the next day to behold it againe.

It was the object of all the eyes thereabouts, and on their returne homewards the subject of all their discourse. The Knights the Gentlemen; and the Ladies the Peasants; and their Families stood all closse together round about it, and being overcome with the amazement of the sight there was regard unto degrees or distinction of persons, and it seemes they learned this instruction from the Pond which they now made use of. *That they were all but one blood.*

From the observation of the blood they fall into consideration at last of the bloody times, wherein they live, and being so neere to *Loughborough* they grow in discourse of how much blood hath beene spilt by the Lord of *Loughborough* his meanes who being there the great Agent for the King hath robbed many housekeepers in those parts of their goods and their treasure and which is far more deare to them many of their Childrens lives.

Report in this way is made how many families hath he robbed of their fathers, and how many he hath left without their children, they report from the beginning all the skirmishes that have beene made in those parts, and all the battles that have beene fought and all the sieges that have bin laid and raised and passing from one devouring businesse to another, they do curse the proceedings of the civill warre.

The true narration of this water turned into blood may be put into suceeding calanders, and it may be printed in its owne rubrick, in our dayes did this prodigious sight appeare and afterwards, the crimsin colour of the pond did begin to change, and every day to looke paler and paler untill at length it by degree, turned unto its first complection of water the

bloody substance sinking downe, and by its owne weight settling it selfe in the bottome of the pond. In the meantime the rumor of this flying up and downe the Country, there beinge above one thousand witnesses to justifie the truth of it, one Maste *Neale* a Gentleman of good account living at great *Leake* in *Nottingham-shire*, being travailing on his occasion unto *London*, and hearing the report of it to be commonly spoken as he did ride upon the way thought it was foure miles out of the rod, he resolved to see it and making haste he easily overcome the lenght of the way, out of a desire to in enjoy the nouelty of the sight being arrived he sat a long time on horseback at the entrance into the Pond musing and looking on it, (for it was just at that time) when the water did begin to returne to its first complection and perceiving the red substance in the nature of a filmy body to descend towards the bottome, he did put spurres unto his horse who did fling back and snorted and was unwilling to goe into the Pond, but after he had forced him to enter alittle way into it, and stirred towards the bottome of the water with his Cane he perceived clots as it were of congealed blood in great abundance to rise up and having stayed upon the top of the water for alittle space to descend afterwards by degrees againe.

Not able to satisfie himselfe with any reason from whence this wonder should arise, he departed but the Countrey people resolving to examine and dive into the cause thereof, they had a meeting amongst themselves for that intent and concluded at it to have the pond dreyned. It being beleeved that the enemy had throwne some Carcasses into the pond to stayne the water, and to bring thereby some suddaine distruction upon the Cattle.

This beleeve being entertained, the sluce is opened and now the water comes trumbling forth as if it were glad of its liberty, and was afraid to stay any longer in the portentous place where before it was in a swift to rent it made good its passage as if one part were emulation to overtake the other, and the latter strove with the former for the honour of proceeding. And to perfect the worke wherein some deeper places of the pond, the water stood still and could not disadvantage it selfe into the channell; the Countrymen some with scoopes and some with pailes did carry forth the water, with many hands they overcame the task which seemed at first almost possible. And the pond being drayned and found nothing but fish of which in divers kinds there were great store, & those fish seemed still to be very good and nothing the worse for that miraculous accident which had made red the water. We may learne by this what God can doe who in a most wonderfull way can expresse his power without the least dammage to the Creatures.

Howsoever the pond being drayned dry which may increase the wonder, the blood in many places was discovered in extended degrees to be like so many scarlet Carpots on the bottome of the poole, to the unspeakable amazement of the beholders, and indeed they may well put wonder on, for though in our owne Chronicles & in other Histories we have read sometimes of Clouds that have rayned dropes of blood, which

though it is very wonderfull, yet because Phelosophers have undertake to give a naturall reason for it, it substracteth some thing from the greatnesse of the wonder, but this as no cause can be assigned for it, so no story that I remember can example it, but being as farre beyond nature as example it sheweth it selfe to proceed from the immediate power and the hand of God.

I will not presume to give you the interpretation of it nor say it is suitable to the present condition of these bleeding times, neither will I be so hardy as to affirme that the foure dayes wherein the water every day seemed to increase in the rednesse of its colour doth signifie the foure years of the war which now are already or neere expired and that as the water every day for the foure dayes exceeded one another in the defines of its sanguine dye, it looking every day redder then before, so the warre for these foure years hath every yeare beene one yeare more bloody then the other, surely it will prove good news could I from hence assure you that as after the foure dayes being ended, the water did begin to returne in its first genuine colour, so the fourth yeare of this war being expired, the Kingdome shall againe returne to its ancient blessing and habit of peace, and that as the water bringing its first cleanes the blood did sinke downe and vanish away, so now the crying sins of blood shall be washed away from this Kingdome by the cleanes of a new life and by the teares of true repentance.

There were many of the towne of Garraton both men and women, and of the inhabitants of the Country thereabouts who dipped their hand-kechers in this pond when it was of a bloodly colour, and the linnen retayning the complection of blood, it will be a testimoniall to succeeding times of this most strange and wonderfull accident and of the truth of what we write.

But to give you a good end to all these wonderfull events, we have received intelligence and it is confidently reported that the King having of late received so many overthrowes, and losse upon losse and despairing of and successe by Armes, hath now sent unto the Parliament at Westminster to desire hostages for the security of his person, that he may come and sit among them to compose the differences of the Kingdome.

It is the desire of many thousands that His Majesty may continue in this happy resolution, and that after so many deffiulties and dangers past, and so much blood spilt he might at lenght by the mercy of God returne and be reconciled to his Parliament, and to this there is no good Subject (unlesse he be a desperate Malignant or some arch Papist) but will say Amen.

In these sad dayes when the voyce of Gods wrath are poured forth on the face of the whole Earth wonders were never more frequent. Every day almost bringeth forth some new Miracle.

In Shoolane London, on Tuesday September sixteene there was a monstrous and prodigious Birth of which the good woman was delivered with infinet paine and danger. It seemed to be as it were two children the one arising from upper monstrous part of the other, the first child out of which the other did proceed had neither head nor feet, but was onely

content with thighes and two stumps for leggs, neither had it any armes but two imperfect branches came from the shoulders of it which had no hands at all.

The nailes both for the hands & foot in a formidable length and sharpnesse did grow out of the hipps on each side to the great amazement of the beholders: It had no head, but in stead thereof there did arise from the neck a great and hollow lumpe of flesh, and from thence did proceed another birth in the shape of a man child, and perfect in every limb it was but little but very lovely to behold, spare and leane and its feet were fastoned in the hollow trunke which grew about the neck of the other monster out of which it doth appeare the whole body doth proceed, it is crediable that it received its originall and the beginning of its growth from the imperfect ruines of the other which (as I have said) having neither head nor feet, receive perfect shapes in all other parts the armes onely excepted, and it was very plumpe and fat, and (as it seemed) designed by nature a female. These births do carry with them remarkable observations, sad and monsterous times must labour still with sad and monsterous births and this (as it was still-borne,was exposed unto buplick veiw to the infinet amazement of the beholders, and to the great griefe of the Parents.

FINIS.

Strange and True

NEWES

FROM

GLOCESTER,

OR,

A perfect Relation of the Wonderful,

and Miraculous Power of God shewed for injustice, at *Fairford*, betwixt *Farrington* and *Scicester;* where an innumerable company of *Froggs* and *Toads* (on a sudden) over-spread the Ground, Orchards and Houses of the Lord of the Town, and a Justice near adjacent: and how they divided themselves into two distinct *B*odies, and orderly made up to the house of the said Justice; some climing up the walls, and into the Windows and Chambers: and afterwards how strangely and unexpectedly they vanisht away to the admiration of *All*.

Also a great and terrible Earth-quake, which spoyld several Houses, Towns and Castles. The raining of blood, and Hail-stones of a pound and a half weight, a great part of a Forrest being burnt up with Fire from Heaven.

Likewise the wonderful example of Gods Justice in the sudden and dreadful Death of the Clark's Daughter of *Brockington* in *Glocestershire*, in the presence of the whole *CONGREGATION*

Entred according to Order.

LONDON, Printed by J.C. *for* N.T. 1660.

STRANGE

NEWES

FROM

GLOCESTER.

THe great and heavy Judgements of God, hath alwaies attended those who have reviled these his chosen people, as appears, and is exactly laid down in Scripture. I shall only instance two at present, and afterwards come to the Subject it self.

The first is, the sad end of those perverse children, who mocked the Prophet *Elisha*, and were devoured of Bears, which you may read at large 2 Kings 2. 23, 24.

The second is, the great Plagues laid upon *Pharaoh* King of *Ægypt*, for the heavy affliction laid by him on the children of *Israel*: which the Lord repayd with several sharp Judgements, as the Plague of Frogs, Lice and Fleas, murrain, *B*oils and Blains, Hail, Locusts, and by the death of all the first-born in the Land; and at last by overthrowing him and his whole Host in the Red-sea, as you may see in the 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, & 14: Chapters of *Exodus*. So hath the Lord (throughout the whole Scriptures) owaies dealt with those unjust Judges who scoffed and afflicted all his people.

The like being in this our age, I shall not instance any more examples; the following discourse being sufficient to reclaim any Rational Person whatever: The true Account whereof is this, *viz*:

A Company of Christians met together lately, to serve, and worship the Lord according to their present apprehensions, at the place afore-named; Which when noised abroad, a company of Rude People gathered together, who immediately came to the said Meeting, and after one had prayed, and nominated a Text of Scripture, some of the Multitude plucked him out of the place where he stood: Which when some of the Zealous persons perceived, they immediately informed a Justice of Peace, whose residence was hard by, desiring his assistance to appease the Wrath and Fury of the rude Multitude, who in the interim had wholly dispersed the CONGREGATION by their cruel, most uncivil, and dangerous usage.

The Justice of Peace perceiving their judgements differing from his own, refused any wayes to assist them, but rather spoke hardly unto them by way of threatning, He being encouraged therto by the Lord of the Town, who also had that power to assist these People.

The next day after these persons suffering thus, some of them went again to the said Justice, declaring unto him, That God would certainly visit him and his, because he refused to do justice according to his place and calling: Which Admonition little availed with the Justice, but rather hightned him in rage and fury against them.

But so it fell out through the mighty power of God, (thereby testifying to the World, and shewing his judgements on unrighteousness and ungodliness) that the next day after one walking a little way out of the Town where the Justice lived, he immediately discovered a multitude of Frogs and Toads, in such manner and wise as is unexpressable: Yet saith the true Informer, They Marched in two companies, even as Soldiers March in Field, and come fast on towards the Town: Which when the aforesaid person espyed, he fled into a by-place to see what the issue thereof would be.

And so it was, That this multitude of Frogs and Toads which thus Marched in battel-Aray, continued so, till they were come into the Town, and there (for certain) the one Party on their way to the said Justices House, and the other into the hous of the said Lord of the Town.

The informer saith, That they also continued thus violently marching, till they had encompassed both the said houses, filling the Orchards, Gardens and low rooms of the Houses, and some of them attempting to go up stairs into the Chambers.

At the same time a maid-servant of the said Justices of Peace perceiving it, and being present when those zealous persons aforesaid came for justice, and received such a repulse from her Master instead thereof, she cryed out to her Master and said on this wise, Lo this is the just judgment of our God upon us for refusing to help those innocent people, according to your power yesterday.

Which said *expression* of hers, took such an *impression* in the Justice, that he immediately resolved to send for those persons who were the immediate causers of the former disturbance, and to do justice upon them, if possibly he could but get a way and opportunity by reason of those *Frogs* and *Toads*.

Hereupon, putting himself somewhat farther, to go towards a place to effect this resolution, the said *Frogs* and *Toads* did perfectly separate themselves in two several bodies, and made a perfect Lane or passage for the Justice.

The Justice having accomplished those his intentions, whilst the *Frogs* and *Toads* continued attended him and his House; the aforesaid Zealots being countenanced; and the aforesaid rude multitude discouraged and punished, the *Frogs* and *Toads* were departed, and vanished so suddenly and wonderfully as no man can tell how, when nor whether they are gone, doing no harm at all to any place, Thing, or person whatsoever.

Such was the innumerable number of these *Frogs* and *Toads*, that the like hath not been heard of in the memory of man, and the more may it administer cause of admiration, in regard of their orderly deviding themselves as it were two Armys placed in Battalia by some politick Commander; which indeed could be done by none but the Almighty.

Thus may the Reader see the Justice of God in oppposition to the injustice of man; the substance whereof should teach all men *To live righteously, soberly & justly, &c.*

The next Strange, Wonderful, and Miraculous signe of Gods mighty

Power, was seen in a terrible *Earth-quake* that happened in *FRANCE*, on *Munday* the 21. of *June*, 1660. Which was dated at *Bourdeaux* the 24. of *June*, 1660. and sent to a Merchant in *London*; Which is according to the *French* Copy, translated into *English* as followeth, *viz*:

Sir, &c.

ON *Munday*, the 11. of this present Month June, at three of the Clock in the morning, God brought it so about, That the Earth Quaked some Twelve or Thirteen Leages round about this City, and this very City was attached therewith by two shakings, as if it would elevate it into the Skies: The Bells of Saint *Serrir* by it sounded diddering, with full voice: The Castle of *Cadillaco* where was the Duke of *Aspernone* their Governour) shaked in a strange fashion: And *Baxat's* City also, where the King was. The Steeple of Saint *Michaels* yeelds tokens of it, by the rupture of its Top, and the fall of some of the highest stones, also the fall of some parts of the Wall.

That which is most astonishing, is, That some Houses, and some Persons being not far from each other, some of them were free from this shaking, and the hearing of the noise thereof, when others heard and felt it, even in your very house: Madam your wife, and *Peter* heard it, but the Maid and I heard nothing of it, although then I was awake: Thus much from the Letter.

Other write that at *Tholouse*, and some other places in *France* was the same Earth-quake.

It is also testified that a great part of the Forrest of *Bleau* (where is one of the Kings stately Houses) was burnt by fire from Heaven (its about 16 Leagues from *Paris*.)

Also that in some parts of *France* it hath rained Blood, and great Hail-stones of a Pound and a half weight, and great store of Frogs in some places half a foot deep, and strange Vermine that eat up the Corn.

The last thing that I shall here mention, is the sudden and dreadfull death of the Clerks Daughter of *Brockington*, in *Glostershire*, which was just a week before *Whitsunday* last past, being the 3d day of *June*, 1660. The true Relation whereof in brief is as followeth, *viz*:

AT a Meeting there on that day were many met, *B. Collet*, and *B. Collins*, gifted brethren, from *Burton* on the water, and divers others thence, and from *Stow*, and other places, it was rumoured about, that some of the County Troop would then come and seize upon them, and imprison some, and Rout them All.

The Clerks Daughter came with her mother, who had opposed and reviled them, uttering hard speeches against them, and their Meetings, and Wayes, and these two stood by in a corner.

When they came, Brother *Collet* was in exercise, speaking upon *Jude* 14. and 15. Verses, with much affection being a precious, humble, tender-hearted man) upon these words, *Behold the Lord commeth with ten thousand of his Saints, To execute judgement upon all, and to convince all that*

are ungodly among them, of all their ungodly deeds, which they have ungodly committed, and of all their hard speeches, which ungodly sinners have spoken against him:

Whilst he was Preaching upon these words, the hand of the Lord of Hosts went out against that Daughter, as it appeared; for she gave a sudden great Scrick, and fell down dead before them All.

Those that were about her, rubbed and chafed her for her restoring, but there was no appearance of life at all.

As some were carrying her Corps in the passage out, Mr *Heiden* met them, who led that Party of the Troop, and he came in, and would have them away Prisoners, and charged them with the death of the maid.

B. Collins answered to this effect, Nay, We have not killed her, but the Lord hath done it, in whose hand is both your breath and ours.

Since this time the Clerk spake well of that People, saying, *These are the People of God*.

Also since this remarkable hand of the Lord, there hath been much peace and freedom from molestation in their Meetings, to hear *John Belcher* in *Stow*, in the Market-place, and other places. Much more was expressed both in the Letter, and by sundry personal evidences, concerning the cruelties and indignities of many such spirits as is hereby specified, but at this time both Author and Printer delivers onely the truth in general, desiring a kind acceptance of the Reader, withall, to amend in himself whatsoever he [? *illegible*] either herein or in himself, and so

FAREWEL,

A Strange and True
RELATION
OF
Several Wonderful and Miraculous Sights

seen in the Air in *February* last, and this present *March* 1661. A clear SUN shining in the East at Midnight, with several Rayes or *Beams*, upon each of which hung the *Skeliton* of a Dead Man, link'd together with Serpents, and many *Turkes* and *Greek* and *Hebrew* Letters, which none could Interpret. Also three Ships appeared at noon-day sailing on dry Land, as on the water out of which came men with Swords and Spades, and Armed Soldiers, hacking and Hewing as they went, who after vanished with the Ships. Likewise a great Storm of Haile Blood-red, being so hard that putting it into the fire it could not be melted, but so soon as put in the water it turned to Blood. Several sorts of Victuals upon the Tables was turn'd to blood. fire fell from Heaven, several Graves opened, and the dead bones were heard to rattle perfectly. A Woman appeared three several daies crying, *Repent, repent, the last day is at the Dore*. And a Child in a white shirt appeared early in the morning to a Watchman, commanding him to say, *Beloved Christians the last day is not far off*.

This is confirmed by two Posts and several Gentlemen of quality.

Likewise a true account and exact Description of a Monstrous Gyant lately discovered in *Darbyshire* his Head being at least a bushel in compasse, and one of the Teeth drawn out of his Head weighs two pound and a half which was sent to *London*, and hath been shown to many persons of quality in and about the City, by a *Barber-Surgion*, at the *Blew-Anchor* in *Little Brittain*.

LONDON, Printed for *J. Jones*, 1661.

AN EXACT

RELATION

OF SEVERALL

Strange and Miraculous Sights
Seen in the Air, in *February* last, and also
this present *March*. 1661.

AMongst the many wonderful Apparitions, and Prodigious Signs that have been visible within some few years last past, none that hath appeared in *Europe* can Parrallel these last strange and miraculous and wonderful Sights seen in *February* last; which is confirmed by Letters from *Hamborough* dated the 4th of *March* 1661. Certefying that at *Dresseden* hath been seen many wonderful Omens, and miraculous Signs.

First, a Watchman at three of the Clock in the Morning (as the manner is) said, *The Day drives away the darke Night, Beloved Christians be sober and watch & praise God*; at the ending of these words a little Childe in a white shirt appeared to him, Commanding him, when he cryed again, to say, *Beloved Christians the last day is not far off*. The same words the next morning was told to an old Watch-man, by an old White-man, biding him say the same words.

2. The several sorts of Victuals that was upon their Tables turn'd into Blood.

3. That Fire did fall from Heaven.

4. That (our Ladys Church so call'd) the Graves open'd, and that they did hear the rattling of the dead mens bones perfectly,

5. That at clear noon day, three ships did appear upon the River of *Elve*, sayling with a full wind through Bridge, and thence upon a suddain they appeared on dry Land; After which, immediately there came out of the first ship little Children, out of the second came forth men with naked Swords and Spades, hacking and hewing as they went, and out of the third came all Souldiers, and after they had been upon the Land, they with the three Ships suddainly vanished away.

6. and lastly, That the Boor or Countrey-man in the same party, met a man who was Armed, having in his hand a naked Sword who upon his approaching towards him immediately vanished.

The truth of all this is by two Posts confirmed, and by a worthy Senator of Dresden.

It is further certified that they have all manner of strange births, and not a day passeth where in there is not some miraculous or dreadful thing seen or heard of in this or some adjacent Towns.

It is confirmed likewise by Letters from *Hambridge* of the same date, That there fell in *Egersteed* a wonderful great storm of Hayle, which was of an

extraordinary weight, and blood-red, this hail was so hard and durable that they could not make it melt in the fire, nor burn to Ashes; but at last being put into the water, did turn it into a blood-red colour; this likewise is reported for truth by several credible men.

A Letter from *Dirnix* in *Moravia* dated the fifteenth of *February* 1661, certifies that there was the appearance of a clear shinning Sun in the East, with several Rayes or beams, about twelve of the Clock at night, and upon each of these Rayes hanged a Skeliton of a dead man, linked fast together by fiery Serpents.

And also from *Dantzik* it is advertize by a Letter dated the 28 day of *February* 1661. That for several daies together there was seen in the Heavens many wonderful strange and miraculous Sights, as of Pikes, *Greek* and *Hebrew* Letters, and also in the night season great Armies of men in the habit of *Turkes*.

There is likewise an account given us by Letters of the same date from *Thoren*, That there was seen a strange Woman well habited, who walked through the Town thre several dayes one after another, and that as she went along expressed several times these following words, *Repent, repent, the last day is at the door.*

What the effect of these strange Sights, wonderful Signs and Prodigious births maybe, I shall not attempt to give you an account of, many now living having already heard & seen the events of some strange apparitions that have bin visible in these latter Ages, yet not altogether so miraculous as these herein mentioned, which indeed are too hard for any mortal to dive into the Interpretation of; and the true meaning being known to none but God alone, who ordereth and decreeth all things in Heaven and Earth, according to his good will and pleasure, and by whom we live, and move and have our being.

A true Description of the strange discovery of a great and monstrous Gyant in Darbyshire:

THis story may seem to the Reader very incredulous, in regard of the wonderful bigness and proportion of this huge, great and impregnable Monster of men; but to make it more apparent that there hath been persons of the like bigness, I shall not mention any old Romance wherein such Gyants have been proportioned or drawn out according to the fancy of the Poet, but instance one well known to be true to the generallity of people, and so come to the Discription of this hideous and invincible Monster.

We read in *Samuel* of that valiant Champion of the *Philistins* named *Goliah* who defied the Hoast of *Israel*, who was six Cubits and a span in highth, and ware a Helmet of Brasse on his Head, and was Armed with a Coat of

Male, which weighed five thousand Shekels of Brasse, and the staffe in his hand was like a Weavers Beam, the Head of his Spear weighing six hundred Shekels of Iron, and a great Target of Brasse between his Shoulders; this may be enough to satisfie any rational person, therefore though several others have been in later ages, which might be here inserted, both of great Gyants and valiant Champions, I shall not for brevities sake enter into any further discourse but come to the story it self, which is as followeth, *viz.*

Certain Labourers digging in a Mine (which lay on the side of a Hill for Lead Ore, following a vane that ran up to the top of the Hill found to their apprehension a perfect Rock, but having disrobed it of the Earth or Mole that lay thereon, they discovered a plain stone of a vast bigness, upon which they soon espyed a fair but strange Inscription engraven in an unknowne Language, which as yet no Schollar can be found to Interpret, but only by the date of the year that is likewise engraven in Figures, it doth appear by the best exposition they can make thereon, that it must without question be layd there before the Nativity of our blessed Lord & Saviour Jesus Christ.

These workmen upon order given them digged down on both sides thereof, and discovered on either side a large stone as big as the former, and with much toyle and ingenuity removing the uppermost, they beheld a very spacious & stately Tomb or Sepulchre, in which there lay the full proportion of an huge, monstrous and impregnable Gyant, which as they to their best Judgment could not perceive in the least diminished in any part of the Body.

But in fine they attempted to remove the Body of this mighty Monster, which immediately fell in pieces, whereupon they took up the bones which were of a vast bigness and also his Scul, and conveyed them to a Lords house near adjacent, where they are to be seen daily, and have been by several persons of quality.

The Scul of this great Gyant hath been measured and doth hold at least a bushel of Corn, all his bones being proportionable thereunto, the highth of this Monster being adjudged by the best accountant (according to the bigness of the Scull and bones to be at least five yards if not more.

For further testimony of the truth hereof, there was lately one of the teeth of this Gyant sent by a Gentleman out of *Darbyshire* to a friend of his in *London*, which in weight is at least two pound and a half; this tooth hath been shown divers times (by a *Barber Surgion* at the Sign of the *Blew-Anchor* in Little *Brittain*) to several credible persons, who being eye-witnesses can testifie the truth hereof.

FINIS.

APPENDIX: Related Publications in the Thomason Collection

The following publications are listed chronologically, by date of publication. Catalogue numbers, given in square brackets, refer to *Catalogue of the Pamphlets, Books, Newspapers, and Manuscripts Relating to the Civil War, the Commonwealth, and Restoration, Collected by George Thomason, 1640-1661*, London, 1908.

[E171.(20.)] *New News, and Strange News from Babylon.* 1641.

[E136.(4.)] *A Strange Wonder or, the Cities Anazement. Being a Relation Occasioned by a Wonderfull and Unusual Accident, that Happened in the River of* Thames. 1642.

[E151.(2.)] *Strange and Miraculous* Newes *from Tvrkie.* 1642.

[E107.(7.)] *A Relation of a Terrible Monster taken by a Fisherman neere* Wollage, July. the 15. 1642. *and is now to be seen in* Kings Street, Westminster.

[E113.(15.)] *A Strange and Lamentable Accident that Happened Lately at Mears Ashby in Northamptonshire 1642.* 1642.

[E111.(2.)] *A Signe From Heaven: or a Fearfull and Terrible Noise Heard in the Ayre at* Alborow *in the County of* Suffolk, *on Thursday the 4. Day of August at 5. of the Clocke in the Afternoone.* 1642.

[E128.(18.)] *A Blazing Starre seene in the West at Totneis in Devonshire, on the Fourteenth of this Instant November 1642.* 1642.

[E.85.(41.)] *A Great wonder in Heaven.*, 1643.

[E86.(23.)] *The New Yeares Wonder.* 1643.

[E288.(17.)] *The Starry Messenger or, An Interpretation of that Strange Apparition of Three* Suns *Seene in* London, *19.* Novemb. *1644. Being the Birth Day of King Charles. By William Lilly.* 1644.

[E295.(2.)] *Signes and Wonders from Heaven with a True Relation of a Monster Borne in* Ratcliffe Highway, *at the Signe of the Three Arrows, Mistris* Bullock *the Midwife Delivering her therof. Also Shewing how a Cat Fritned a Monster in* Lombard Street *in* London. *Likewise a new Discovery in* Stepney *Parish, And how 20. Witches more were Executed in* Suffolke *this last Assise, Also how the Devil came to Soffam to a Farmers House in the Habit of a Gentlewoman on Horse Backe.* 1645.

[E301.(12.)] *Strange and Fearfull Newes from Plaisto.* 1645.

[E340.(23.)] *Good Newes From Oxford… Also the Particulars of the Seven Visions seene at* Gravenhage *the 31. of* Nay *last.* 1646.

[E325.(20.)] *A Declaration of a Strange and Wonderfull Monster: Born in Kirkham Parish in Lancashire.* 1646.

[E340.(33.)] *Severall Apparitioms Seene in the Ayre at the Hagve in* Holland, *upon the* $^{21}/_{31}$ *day of* May *last past 1646, about one of the clocke in the Afternoone.* 1646.

[E340.(3.)] *Signes from Heaven: or Severall Apparitions Seene and Heard in the Ayre in the Counties of* Cambridge *and* Norfolke, *on the 21 day of* May *last past in the afternoone, 1646.* 1646.

[E344.(16.)] *Sad Newes From the Eastern Parts.* 1646.

[E349.(1.)] *Five Wonders Seene in England*. 1646.

[E356.(13.)] *A Strange and Wonderfull Relation of the Burying Alive of* Joan Bridges *of* Rochester *in the County of Kent*. 1646.

[E377.(13.)] *Immortality in Mortality Magnifi'd*. 1647

[E385.(7.)] *Fearful Apparitions or the Strangest Visions that Ever hath Been Heard of*. 1647.

[E408.(14.)] *Strange Newes From Scotland or, a Strange Relation of a Terrible and Prodigious Monster, Borne to the Amazement of all Those That Were Spectators, in the Kingdome of* Scotland, *in a Village Neere Edenborough, call'd* Hadensworth, Septem. *14. 1647 and the Words the Said Monster Spake at its Birth*. 1647.

[E594.(18.)] *A True Relation of the Strange Apparitions Seen in the Air on* Monday *25,* February, *in and About the Town of* Bolton *in the Mores, in the County of* Lancaster *at Mid-day, to the Amazement of the Beholders*. 1650.

[E603.(3.)] *Strange Newes From the North Containing a True and Exact Relation of a Great and Terrible Earth-quake in* Cumberland *and* Westmorland. 1650.

[E612.(16.)] *Teratologia: Or a Discovery of Gods Wonders*. 1650.

[E625.(16.)] *Newes from the Dead or a True and Exact Narration of Miraculous Deliverance of* Anne Greene, *Who Being Executed at Oxford Decemb. 14. 1650. Afterwards Revived*. 1650.

[E628.(16.)] *Wonderful Newes, From the North*. 1651.

[E646.(3.)] *The Wonder of Our Times: Being a True and Exact Relation of the Body of a Mighty Giant dig'd up at* Brockford *Bridge neer* Ipswich *in* Suffolk, *this present* November *1651*. 1651.

[E715.(16.)] *The Strange Wonder of the World, Or the Great Gyant Described with the Monsterousness of his* Stature, *his* Conditions, *the Place Where, and the Manner How he was Taken*. 1653.

[E851.(11.)] *The Twelve Wonders of England, being a Most Strange and Wonderful Relation of the Death of Mr. Parrey, an Inn-keeper, living at the sign of the Bell at Temple-bar; and the Manner how Twelve Serpents were Voided from Him a Little Before his Death on Thursday last, some Having Heads like Toads and Horses, and Other like Newts and Dogs, to the Great Admiration of all that Shall Read the Ensuing Subject*. 1655.

[E863.(8.)] *A True Relation of Strange and Wonderful Sights Seen in the Air, at the Time the Moon was in the Eclipse* January *1, 1655*. 1655.

[E1635.(3.)] *The Most Wonderful and True Relation of Master John Macklain Minister of Gods Word at* Lesbury *in the County of* Northumberland, *Who Being One Hundred and Sixteen Years of Age, was Miraculously Restored to a Youthful Vigour and Complexion, New Haire Growing upon his Head, New Teeth in his Mouth, and his Eyes Restored to a Most Cleer and Perfect Sight, After the use of Spectacles for Almost Forty Years Together*. 1657.

[E955.(4.)] *A True Relation of a Very Strange and Wonderful Thing That was Heard in the Air,* October, *the Twelfth by Many Hundreds of People*. 1658.

[E1874.(4.)] *Two Most Strange Wonders*. 1662.

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